CLAIMS

1. A process for the production of inactivated Hepatitis A virus substantially free of host cell contamination, the process comprising:

a) a culturing Hepatitis A virus and harvesting a hepatitis A preparation

b) treating said hepatitis A preparation with a protease, thereafter

c) separating intact virus from protease-digested protein

d) inactivating said virus.

2. A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the Hepatitis A virus is derived from HM-175 strain.

3. A process as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the protease is trypsin.

4. A process as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein part c) includes a permeation chromatography step.

5. A process as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, further comprising an ion exchange step after protease digestion.

6. An inactivated Hepatitis A virus obtained by the process according to any one of claims 1 to 5.

7. An inactivated Hepatitis A virus preparation substantially free of host cell contaminants.

8. The inactivated Hepatitis A virus of claim 7, comprising less than 10% or less than 8% or less than 5% contaminating host cell proteins detectable by scanning SDS PAGE.

10. A vaccine according to claim 9 formulated with a Th1-type inducing adjuvant.

11. A vaccine according to claim 10 wherein the adjuvant comprises monophosphoryl lipid A or a derivative thereof.

12. A vaccine according to claim 11 further comprising QS21.

13. A vaccine according to claim 12 further comprising an oil in water emulsion and tocopherol.

14. A vaccine according to any one of claims 9 to 13 further comprising a hepatitis B antigen.

15. A vaccine according to any one of claims 9 to 14 further comprising a non-hepatitis antigen.

16. A method of producing a hepatitis a vaccine, which method comprises mixing a preparation of inactivated hepatitis A virus according to any one of claims 6 to 8 with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.